

# EUCOM Soldier lauded for service in Bosnia and Herzegovina

By Melanie Casey

A Stuttgart Soldier has been honored by the state of Maryland for his role in fostering positive international relations.

Maj. David Galles of Headquarters, U.S. European Command, has earned the Maryland Commendation Medal for his role in getting a new partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina off the ground.

As the Office of Defense Cooperation chief in Bosnia from August 2002 until August 2003, Galles was responsible for getting the new partnership – part of the National Guard Bureau of International Affairs State Partnership Program – started and “making sure Maryland understood the complex nature of Bosnia and what we wanted them to do for Bosnia,” he said.

Galles’ “innovativeness was instrumental in getting the SPP established and operating at full capacity in Bosnia Herzegovina,” said Lt. Col. William Everett, who nominated Galles for the award.

Galles’ work in Bosnia involved military-to-military contact between the United States and Bosnia for security assistance programs.

## ‘A bridge to America’

The National Guard State Partnership Program began in 1993 in response to the decline of communism and the fall of the Soviet Union.

The program links the National Guards of the United States with ministries of defense of developing nations around the world in an effort to help the emerging countries achieve “their rightful place in the community of nations,” according to the 2002 SPP report.

Furthermore, “These associations [will] build a ‘Bridge to America,’ establishing and nurturing bonds of mutual understanding at the grass roots level,” said retired Col. Wayne Gosnell.

Partnership activity areas include military training and education, en-



Galles

vironmental management and education, emergency preparedness, border control, senior and civic leader development and public affairs.

Through the SPP, “the National Guard’s citizen soldiers and airmen act as ambassadors from their communities and the nation,” according to the founding doctrine.

Since its inception, the SPP has expanded to pair 39 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia with 44 countries.

EUCOM’s area of responsibility includes 20 states partnered with 19 countries. For instance, California is paired with the Ukraine and New York is teamed with South Africa.

The program is bilateral, which means there is no involvement from third countries, NATO or the United Nations. The relationship is strictly one-on-one.

## Maryland connection

Maryland has been partnered with Estonia for many years, but the state’s relationship with Bosnia is a new one: EUCOM Commander Gen. James Jones recognized the partnership in January 2003.

Having learned valuable lessons from its association with Estonia, the SPP in Bosnia

## Goals of the National Guard State Partnership Program:

- ◆ Improve communications between the United States and partnership forces.
- ◆ Assist with the development of democratic institutions.
- ◆ Foster open market economies to help develop stability.
- ◆ Demonstrate military subordination to civil authorities.
- ◆ Project and represent the United States’ humanitarian values.

For more information:

The National Guard Bureau Office of International Affairs Web site ([www.ngb-ia.org](http://www.ngb-ia.org))

“is well ahead of the normal life cycle of Partnership programs,” Everett said.

Galles said initial contact is strictly military-to-military. However, as each program develops, communication evolves to include civilian to military and eventually civilian to civilian contact.

Galles received his award in an outdoor ceremony Dec. 19 in EUCOM’s “J-Mall.” Maj. Gen. James Darden, Reserve Affairs director, presented the award.

Galles now serves as the political military desk officer in EUCOM’s Plans and Policy (J-5) Directorate.

For more information about the National Guard State Partnership Program, visit [www.ngb-ia.org](http://www.ngb-ia.org).

## USAFE MSS names 2003’s ‘best of best’

The Patch Barracks-based U.S. Air Forces in Europe Mission Support Squadron has honored the following individuals for their performance in 2003:

*Field Grade Officer*

**Maj. Robinn Johnson**

*Company Grade Officer*

**Capt. Brian Angell**

*First Sergeant*

**Senior Master Sgt. Dave Curley**

*Senior Noncommissioned Officer*

**Senior Master Sgt. Damon Wilford**

*Noncommissioned Officer*

**Tech. Sgt. Daniel Flanagan**

*Airman*

**Senior Airman Gail Utkan**

*Civilian*

**Jerry Nelson**

*Communications & Information Professional (Senior NCO)*

**Master Sgt. Dale Rupright**

*Communications & Information Professional (NCO)*

**Staff Sgt. David Long**

*Communications & Information Professional (Airman)*

**Senior Airman Roshawn Burdett**

As a unit, the USAFE MSS also earned the following designations:

- Outstanding Mission Support Squadron (Category II)
- Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Outstanding Military Personnel Flight Achievement Award (Category II)
- Air Force Personnel Testing Award

## Celebrate Super Bowl Sunday in Stuttgart

Food & Fun!

\*Slider's All-Ranks Lounge\*

\*Kelley Community Club\*

\*RB Community Club\*

Prizes & Surprises!

## Tuition-free training

**Strategic Operations Planning**

Feb. 17 to 20 (Seckenheim)

- Ideal for managers and management analysts.
- Discuss competitiveness, strategy and productivity.

**Operations Design**

Feb. 23 to 26 (Seckenheim)

- Discuss legal, ethical and environmental workplace issues.
- Design work systems and a project plan.

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- Follow instructions to complete & submit enrollment form.